IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector with access to an e-commerce provider such that the event detector is able to receive information from the e-commerce provider;

receiving information of an event;

determining [[the]] a level of importance of the event relative to a first person;

providing the digital assistant with access to a communications service provider such that the agent selector is able to attempt to contact at least one person;

if the level of importance of the event [[has]] is determined by the digital assistant to be ~~a level of importance~~ greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and [[a]] if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be [[that is]] below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then selecting at least one person to contact and attempting to contact the at least one person; and

if the level of importance of the event [[has]] is determined by the digital assistant to be ~~a level of importance~~ greater than or equal to the second predetermined threshold, then selecting a plurality of persons to contact and attempting to contact the plurality of persons.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from the current location of the at least one person.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein information concerning the current location of the at least one person is provided by a device carried by the at least one person.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~a GPS receiver within~~ the device carried by the at least one person carries a GPS receiver [[is]] used to provide the information concerning the current location of the at least one person.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the information concerning the current location of the at least one person is derived based on information concerning the location of a network connection to which the device is attached.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the information concerning the current location of the at least one person is derived based on information concerning the location from which a signal transmitted by the device is received.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein at least [[on]] one person has the option to disable the providing of the information concerning the current location of the at least one person by the device.

11. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive information of an event;

determine [[the]] a level of importance of the event to a first person;

select at least one person to contact and attempt to contact the at least one person if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~ is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and [[a]] if the level of importance [[that]] of the event is determined to be below or equal to a second predetermined threshold; and

select a plurality of persons to contact and attempt to contact the plurality of persons if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~ is determined to be greater than or equal to the second predetermined threshold.

12. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

13. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

14. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

15. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from the current location of the at least one person.

16. (currently amended) The computer readable of claim 14, wherein information concerning the current location of the at least one person is provided by a device carried by the at least one person.

17. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the at least on person has the option to disable the providing of the information concerning the current location of the at least one person by the device.

18. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector and an agent selector with access to an e-commerce provider such that the event detector is able to receive information from the e-commerce provider;

receiving information of an event;

determining [[the]] a level of importance of the event relative to a first person;

providing the digital assistant with access to a communications service provider such that the agent selector is able to attempt to contact at least one person;

if the level of importance of the event [[has]] is determined by the digital assistant to be ~~a level of importance~~ greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, then selecting a first device to contact at least one person and attempting to contact the same at least one person;

receiving an indication of the nature of a failure in attempting to contact the same at least one contact person; ~~and~~

~~determining a course of action depending on the nature of the failure~~

attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, will result in success; and

attempting to contact an alternate at least one person if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, will not result in success.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the information concerning the location of the at least one person is used to derive the nature of a failure.

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the indication of failure indicates that the first device was busy, suggesting that a later attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, using the first device, again, would result in success.

27. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the indication of failure indicates that the first device was malfunctioning, suggesting that a later

attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, using the first device, again, would not result in success.

28. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the indication of failure indicates that the same at least one person is choosing not to respond to the attempt to contact the same at least one person, suggesting that a later attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, using the first device, again, would not result in success.

29. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive information of an event;

determine [[the]] a level of importance of the event relative to a first person;

select a first device to contact at least one person and attempt to contact the same at least one person if ~~the event has a level~~ the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, then;

receive an indication of the nature of a failure in attempting to contact the same at least one contact person; ~~and~~

~~determine a course of action depending on the nature of the failure~~

attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, will result in success; and

attempt to contact an alternate at least one person if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, will not result in success.

30. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

31. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

32. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the current location of at least one person.

33. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the information concerning the location of the at least one person is used to derive the nature of a failure.

34. (currently amended) [[An apparatus]] A digital assistant programmed by a first person with information concerning the first person's activities, and configured by [[a]] the first person to:

receive information of an event;

determine [[the]] a level of importance of the event to [[a]] the first person;

select at least one person to contact and attempt to contact the at least one person if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~ is

determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and [[a]] if the level of importance [[that]] of the event is determined to be below or equal to a second predetermined threshold; and

select a plurality of persons to contact and attempt to contact the plurality of persons if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~ is determined to be greater than or equal to the second predetermined threshold.

35. (currently amended) The [[apparatus]] digital assistant of claim 34 further programmed by the first person with the first and second thresholds.

36. (currently amended) [[An apparatus]] A digital assistant programmed by a first person with information concerning the first person's activities, and configured by [[a]] the first person to:

receive information of an event;

determine [[the]] a level of importance of the event relative to [[a]] the first person;

select a first device to contact at least one person and attempt to contact the same at least one person if ~~the event has a level~~ the level of importance of the event is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, then;

receive an indication of the nature of a failure in attempting to contact the same at least one contact person; ~~and~~

~~determine a course of action depending on the nature of the failure~~

attempt to contact the same at least one person, again, if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, will result in success; and

attempt to contact an alternate at least one person if the nature of the failure suggests that attempting to contact the same at least one person, again, will not result in success.

37. (currently amended) The digital assistant [[apparatus]] of claim 36 further programmed by the first person with the first threshold.

38. (currently amended) The digital assistant [[apparatus]] of claim 36 further programmed by the first person with rules indicating when action should always be taken without attempting to contact any person.